

IN THE CLAIMS

**Please amend claims 1, 9, 14, and 15 as indicated.**

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1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for severing a web, comprising:

a rotating transfer roll, the rotating transfer roll being configured to carry a web on the exterior surface of the transfer roll; and

a severing means, the severing means being configured to engage and separate the web in a substantially straight line along the cross direction of the web into an upstream portion and a downstream portion, and

a vacuum source for creating a suction force, wherein the leading edge of the upstream portion is capable of being held against the rotating transfer roll by a suction force at a location immediately adjacent the location where the severing means separates the web, and wherein the tailing edge of the downstream portion is capable of being held against the rotating transfer roll by a suction force at a location immediately adjacent the location where the severing means separates the web.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the severing means comprises an air knife.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the severing means comprises a water knife.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the severing means comprises an interference device.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the severing

means comprises a severing roll.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 additionally comprising:  
a servo motor to direct the movement of the severing means in  
separating the web.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 in which a  
transfer pad is employed to apply the suction force to the web.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus for severing a web,  
comprising:

a rotating transfer roll, the rotating transfer roll being configured to  
carry a web on the exterior surface of the transfer roll, the rotating  
transfer roll having on the exterior surface of the transfer roll a transfer  
pad, the transfer pad being adapted for applying a releasable suction  
force to releasably adhere the web to the transfer roll; and

a severing device, the severing device being configured to  
separate the web into portions having substantially straight edges along  
the cross direction of the web, wherein the transfer pad is configured to  
releasably adhere the separated web to the rotating transfer roll at a  
location on both sides immediately adjacent to the location where the  
severing device separates the web.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 additionally comprising:  
a channel upon the exterior surface of the rotating transfer roll, the  
channel being configured to receive at least one component of the  
severing device in separating the web.

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11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 in which the severing device is adapted to sever the web at a pre-existing perforation.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 additionally comprising: a servo motor configured to control movement of the severing device.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 in which the transfer pad is positioned along the width of the transfer roll to engage the web in the cross direction of the web.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus for separating a web, comprising:

a rotating transfer roll, the rotating transfer roll being configured to carry a web on the exterior surface of the transfer roll, the rotating transfer roll having on the exterior surface of the transfer roll a transfer pad, the transfer pad being adapted for applying a suction force to releasably adhere the web to the transfer roll; and

a severing roll, the severing roll being configured to separate the web into portions having substantially straight edges along the cross direction of the web, wherein the transfer pad is configured to releasably adhere the separated web to the rotating transfer roll at a location on both sides immediately adjacent to the location where the severing roll separates the web.

15. (Currently amended) A method of separating a web, the method comprising:

(a) providing a web,

(b) rotating a transfer roll,

(c) adhering the web to the surface of the transfer roll using a suction force,

(d) providing a severing device, the severing device being selected from the group of devices comprising: air knife, water knife, interference device, and severing roll, and

(e) separating the web in a substantially straight line along the cross direction of the web,

(f) adhering the web to the surface of the transfer roll using a suction force at a location on both sides immediately adjacent to the location where the web was separated.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further wherein step (e) additionally comprises:

engaging the transfer roll with at least one component of the severing device in separating the web.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:

(g) releasing the web.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the releasing step (g) is accomplished by removing the suction force from the web.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

(h) winding the web into a roll

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the severing device is a water knife.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the severing device is an air knife.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the severing device is an interference device.

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